WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MAY 2001

Tuition Protest Causes Senate Lock-down

Tristan Baurick

Panic struck the capitol campus April 6 when a rally protesting proposed tuition increases turned its attention on the state Senate.

Like a fortress hit by an unexpected siege, wild-eyed security guards raced throughout the Cherberg Building stopping doors with feet and shoulders, then padlocks and steel cables.

Unable to enter, students beat drums, waved signs, banged on windows, and yelled into megaphones.

The locked-in Senators, caught in the midst of floor debates, stared outside and listened as the over one-hundred students chanted, "You say tuition hikes! We say student strikes!"

By Senate staff estimates, over half of the participants of this multi-institution walk-out and rally came from community colleges in Seattle. The Evergreen State College provided about one quarter, while the remaining quarter came from various other Puget Sound colleges. Red Pahl, a 17-year old South Seattle Community College student, said she attended the rally because a boost in tuition would likely force her to quit school.

"It's already hard enough to make ends meet and find a cheap place to live," she said. "This tuition hike will be overwhelming."

Pahl was spurred by flyers posted at her campus warning of Gov. Locke's plan to give college trustees the authority to raise tuition by as much as 40 percent over six years.

Though this bill drafted by Locke's staff died in the Senate, many of its tenets live on in the Governor's budget, already passed in the Senate and headed to the House for approval.

In this version, authority over tuition rates is still handed from the legislature over to the colleges, but a 3.7 to 6.7 percent yearly increase limit was tacked on to protect resident undergraduates at most state colleges.

But these caps would not protect tuition for non-resident students, some graduate programs, most health science fields, and all students at The Evergreen State College.

Many students urged the Senate to do away with tuition altogether with the often-repeated chant, "Free Tuition! Free Tuition!"

"Good luck! That'll never happen," yelled one Senate staff member from a second floor window.

But Carlos Marentes, a Seattle Central Community College student, disagrees. Marentes uses Cuba as an example of a government providing students a cost-free education to all who academically qualify.

"You always hear about Cuba and how they're communist and can't feed themselves, but they give everyone an education," he said. "Yet, year after year, we neglect education here in the U.S., the richest country in the world."

The Senate eventually ignored the ruckus outside and continued with floor debates. No one was arrested and the Cherberg Building suffered no damage.

As the crowd of students petered out in the late afternoon, after nearly four hours of protest, security guards unlocked doors and entry was limited to Senate workers with ID badges.

"Finally!" said one legislative aide as she swung open a door. "Now I can get my latte!"

Protest organizers vowed to stage a similar protest before the end of the legislature's special session, which begins after April 22. ▪

May Day - the Real Labor Day

May 1st, International Workers' Day, commemorates the historic struggle of working people throughout the world, and is recognized in every country except the United States, Canada, and South Africa. This despite the fact that the holiday began in the 1880s in the United States, with the fight for an eight-hour work day.

In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions passed a resolution stating that eight hours would constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886. The resolution called for a general strike to achieve the goal, since legislative methods had already failed. With workers being forced to work ten, twelve, and fourteen hours a day, rank-and-file support for the eight-hour movement grew rapidly, despite the indifference and hostility of many union leaders. By April 1886, 250,000 workers were involved in the May Day movement.

The heart of the movement was in Chicago, organized primarily by the anarchist International Working People's Association. Businesses and the state were terrified by the increasingly revolutionary character of the movement and prepared accordingly. The police and militia were increased in size and received new and powerful weapons financed by local business leaders. Chicago's Commercial Club purchased a $2000 machine gun for the Illinois National Guard to be used against strikers. Nevertheless, by May 1st, the movement had already won gains for many Chicago clothing cutters, shoemakers, and packing-house workers. But on May 3, 1886, police fired into a crowd of strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works Factory, killing four and wounding many. Anarchists called for a mass meeting the next day in Haymarket Square to protest the brutality.

The meeting proceeded without incident, and by the time the last speaker was on the platform, the rainy gathering was already breaking up, with only a few hundred people remaining. It was then that 180 cops marched into the square and ordered the meeting to disperse. As the speakers climbed down from the platform, a bomb was thrown at the police, killing one and injuring seventy. Police responded by firing into the crowd, killing one worker and injuring many others.

By covering up the history of May Day, the state, business, mainstream unions and the media have covered up an entire legacy of dissent in this country. They are terrified of what a similarly militant and organized movement could accomplish today, and they suppress the seeds of such organization whenever and wherever they can. As workers, we must recognize and commemorate May Day not only for it's historical significance, but also as a time to organize around issues of vital importance to working-class people today.

County Non-Discrimination Law Needed

by WIP News Service

With the 2000 Census return, Thurston County tops 200,000 residents — yet our laws lag behind and are out of step with other sized counties. It is time for our large, diverse, urban county to adopt a proposed nondiscrimination housing ordinance. Currently, Thurston County lacks a nondiscrimination ordinance that would protect citizens from discrimination in housing as well as in public accomodations and employment. The county does, however, have a policy that offers protection to county employees.

Community members have expressed their desire to see a county ordinance that would change Thurston County for the better. All the larger county municipalities (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater) have already adopted non-discrimination ordinances that protect their citizens based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, families, marital status, relation plus with the further inclusion of sexual orientation and in the case of Olympia: gender identity; and in the case of Tumwater: use of federal housing assistance.

Why federal housing assistance? It is currently legal (outside of Tumwater) for a landlord to refuse to rent to a low-income person who receives a housing subsidy because of their disability or other qualification. The housing subsidy is guaranteed money and the reason for refusal is most likely a misunderstanding about the program. It would be as if a store refused to sell to you because you were paying with five-dollar bills instead of tens — it just doesn't make sense.

By adopting a non-discrimination ordinance our local cities sent a strong message that discriminatory behavior is wrong. The county has an opportunity to stand behind its stated support for equal opportunity and non-discrimination by giving this philosophy the force of law.

Options, developed by community:

1. The county may adopt a local ordinance that includes enforcement provisions through a Human Rights Commission, and which involves county investigation, options for mediation, and the levying and enforcement of penalties through an administrative hearing process.
2. The county may adopt an ordinance modeled after the state's law against discrimination, with the additions of affectional/sexual orientation and use of federal housing assistance. Enforcement would be available to individuals by bringing an action in civil court. The ordinance could, however, include an encouragement or mediation.

If you believe that discriminatory behavior is wrong for county government and wrong for business enterprises in our community, then come to the public hearing on this issue to be scheduled most likely sometime in May.

Call Vanessa at the Thurston County Tenants Union for more information at 360/943-3036.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or aren't finding someone else to cover it.!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 18th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, May 21rd
6:30pm at Olympia Timberland Library

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A Not For Profit Temporary Labor Company

My name is Bruce Palm I own Affordable Moving Services here in Olympia. I have been in the moving services business for 15 years. I have used temporary labor contractors and found that typically the men who show are lacking personal care facilities, they probably have not had a meal, and they are homeless. I started researching temporary labor in the US two years ago. I have found that temporary labor is a $54 billion a year industry in North America. Of the three largest blue collar or light industrial temp companies each will gross $1 billion this year. It is estimated that 50% of homeless are men between 20-40. One temp company in a abstract to potential investors has stated that their company is doing well because of welfare to work programs initiated around the country and placing there offices in poorer neighborhoods.

I consider this most appalling and wish to consider an alternative. I am in the process of organizing A NOT FOR PROFIT TEMPORARY LABOR COMPANY, I apologize to everyone who has called looking for work, I am I assure you working everyday to find a way to get this project open. Unfortunately I have lost access to the building I was planning to utilize. The purpose of ANFPTLC is to provide basic need services to the members who work there. Everything I have read about homelessness and my experience is that temp workers who are homeless or underemployed lack basic services which may include personal care facilities (laundry/shower facilities) a place to store belongings during the day while they work, an address, transportation, day care, health care, shelter.

Cooperatives have historically provided these services to members at cost or no cost by members buying services through group effort. The Northwest Cooperative Federation defines a cooperative as a autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations, through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. The central element of this business structure is that labor uses (employs) capital, rather than capital using (employing) labor. ANFPTLC would provide basic services to members whereby raising their income by lowering their overhead. There are currently 8 labor companies in Olympia. Last year the Thurston County area spent over $400,000 on homeless. Yet it is estimated that 60-70 people go without shelter every night in the area. Before I found the building that I was going to operate out of I approached the Union Gospel Mission director about allowing me to use space in their office. I was asked if the organization was christian based? I told the director that a person soul was not my concern that I was concerned with getting people out of the cycle of homelessness. Needless to say I am looking for a building to operate out of. I will keep searching and knocking on doors.

Film Fundraiser

A Storm from the Mountain: the Zapatistas Take Mexico City

(Continued page 11)

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

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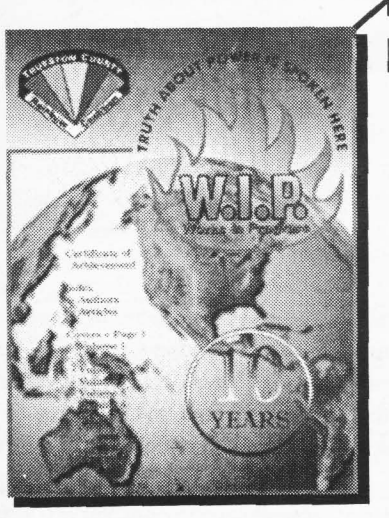

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MAY 2001

Depleted Uranium is in the Food Chain

- A BBC study conducted by Professor Nick Priest of Middlesex University for the Scottish BBC, tested people in three different Balkan locations - one in Bosnia and two in Kosovo.
- All of the participants from the two Kosovo locations tested positive for radiation. "That is completely abnormal, because normally you would expect no DU to be in the urine samples."
- The study's conclusion was that it is likely depleted uranium is present in the food chain.
- A March United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) claims that though uranium isotope U-236 and plutonium isotope Pu-239/240 were contained in the DU munitions used during the Balkan War, the amounts found were very low and does not have any significant impact. The claim was qualified by "under certain circumstances, however, DU can still pose risks."
- The UNEP report mentioned concerns related to the safety of groundwater due to possible munitions "at several metres depth in the ground, as well as any on the ground surface." Heavy firing of DU in one area could increase the potential source of uranium contamination of groundwater by a factor of 10 to 100.
- The BBC study is the first time that civilians in the region have been tested for contamination.
- The UNEP report also recommended that "a programme for possible health examination of people in, or close to, attacked areas where DU was or might have been used, should be devised." However, the proposed testing programme for Kosovan civilians has been shelved following the intervention of the World Health Organization.

Sources: *Sunday Herald*, UNEP, Scottish BBC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"In Kosovska Mitrovica, [in the] north of Kosovo, the number of malignant diseases increased 200% in 2000 compared to 1998, the year before the bombing." Svetlana Stankovic Lala, *Athens News*		**1** **2000**: South Kitsap votes to not include "Snow Falling on Cedars" on reading list for juniors: sexual content and profanity	**2** **2000**: WA St Patrol troopers more likely to arrest black motorists **2000**: Most kids killed by drunk drivers are their passengers	**3** **2000**: Clinton administration won't require labeling of GM food **2000**: In 10 years, AIDS predicted to be epidemic in Asia	**4** **2000**: South Sound is hit by "Love Bug" **2000**: Locke changes mind, supports health benefits for gay partners of state employees	**5** **2000**: EPA gives go-ahead on demolition of Carlyon Beach homes **2000**: Centralia power plant sold to Canadian corp for $554 million
6 **2000**: Irish Republican Army announces it will start to disarm **2000**: Feds require meat processing plants to test for *listeria*	**7** **1913**: Prudential Life declares cancer a national menace **2000**: Serious crime in the US drops 7% in 1999	**8** **1958**: Nixon pelted w/ fruit, eggs in Peru **2000**: Animal Liberation Front raids eggs factory; frees 240 hens to "loving homes"	**9** **2000**: Report shows Boeing's F-15 strike fighter could be built for about $21 million less than the current price	**10** **1999**: First Makah whale hunt in 70 year **2000**: Microsoft asks federal judge to dismiss the government's plan to split Microsoft	**11** **2000**: Chief Justice Richard Guy will not seek reelection **2000**: Unilever, multinational corp buys Ben & Jerry's	**12** **2000**: Klickitat jury orders state to pay lumber co. $2.25 million for limiting its logging on 232 acres to protect spotted owls
13 **1999**: Boeing reports 6,500 to 7,000 layoffs **1999**: Justice Department charged American Airlines of monopolistic practices	**14** **1961**: The first group of Freedom Riders are attacked by mobs of white racists in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama	**15** **2000**: Supreme Court rules rape victims cannot sue attacker in federal court; tosses out provision of Violence Against Women Act	**16** **1998**: NAACP takes stand against I-200 **2000**: Palestinian police reduce tension and prevent riot on the West Bank	**17** **2000**: Hostility in youth increases risk of heart disease 2.5 times **2000**: 1/5 of American males are not registering for the draft	**18** **1996**: 200 in Sylvester Park to protest the timber salvage rider **1998**: Government files an antitrust case against Microsoft Corporation	**19** **1902**: 200 killed as mine shafts crumble in Tennessee **2000**: NY Mayor Giuliani drops out of U.S. Senate race
20 **1921**: Pres Harding presents to Madame Curie a capsule of radium worth $100,000, the gift of the women of the United States	**21** **1999**: WA legislators okay 1.1 million to remove Goldsborough Dam near Shelton **2000**: IT resumes some Sunday routes	**22** **2000**: Supreme Court Strikes down federal law requiring cable operators to restrict sexually explicit shows to overnight hours	**23** **2000**: JAMA claims G-rated movies are becoming more violent **2000**: WA extends med. benefits to gay partners of st. workers	**24** **2000**: Locke launches reelection campaign at Safeco field claiming "education...will continue to be my highest priority."	**25** **2000**: New fed plan divides Microsoft 3 ways **2000**: Dental disease common among poor, minorities due to lack of access to health care	**26** **2000**: Pentagon study shows damage to brain stems of Gulf War vets **2000**: WA adopts rules to protect workers with ergonomic measures
27 **1997**: Supreme Court rules that Paula Jones can move forward with her sexual-harassment lawsuit against President Clinton	**28** **1955**: Head of the United Steelworkers claims that automation of the nation's factories will lead to a 2-hour work day	**29** **1907**: Japanese ask for California police protection from assaults **1912**: 100,000 British dockworkers strike for minimum wage	**30** **2000**: Supreme Court will review whether anti-pollution regulations must take the costs of compliance into account	**31** **1955**: Supreme Court orders immediate school integration **2000**: Crime dropped 8% in WA in 1999; murder rate down 22%	More than a third of inhabitants of Vieques, Puerto Rico have suffered from serious illnesses and cancers, which have been linked to decades of bombing by the US. Matthew Chapman, BBC	

Rebellion in Cincinnati and Continued Police Terror

Black Radical Congress

The situation in Cincinnati almost reminds one of advertisements for the 1970s film "Jaws": just when you thought that it was safe to go back into the water. . . Just when many people thought that it could not get any worse, another blatant example of police abuse and murder.

After well-publicized police abuse and terror nationally, we have now witnessed the murder and burial of Timothy Thomas, yet another Black person executed by the police. Were Cincinnati more of a major media market we might have been better prepared for this new atrocity. Were Cincinnati more of a major media market, we may have better grasped the history of police abuse conducted in that city against the Black population.

It was not the murder of Timothy Thomas that surprised many, but the outrage and rebellion on the part of the city's Black population. Clearly Black people in Cincinnati had had enough. Their fury could no longer be contained and therefore exploded. Ours is not to address the dynamics of the rebellion but to affirm that the outrage was just and that only by calling attention to police rampages and lawlessness will we be able to bring it to a halt.

Some have said that the murders in Cincinnati should not have been a surprise because Cincinnati is Klan country, i.e., very conservative with a history of terror deployed against Black people, reminiscent of the Jim Crow South. This may be true, but the growing attention to police terror in the USA more than anything else reaffirms Malcolm X's old adage: the "South" is everything south of the Canadian border. Thus, most recently the terror was in Cincinnati, but it has also happened in New York, Los Angeles. . .

The bottom line, whether in Cincinnati with Timothy Thomas, or New York with Amadou Diallo, is control. It is not simply a matter of racial fear, or even racial profiling. Those are all symptoms of a much deeper issue. It is about the control over the movements of the Black population, and thereby the complete frustration of democracy. The continued reality of police terror facing people of color generally, and Black people in particular, remains a legacy from slavery and the absolute control which the overseers had over us. Police terror ensures that we understand the limits placed on us and that we continue to lack any rights that the racist state is bound to respect.

If Cincinnati proves anything, it is that the struggle against police terror cannot and should not be handled exclusively on the local level. After the funerals are over, and the tearful words have been uttered, the situation more often than not returns to the status quo. Even after rebellions such as in Cincinnati, or in Los Angeles in 1992, the larger system generally finds a means to excuse away the police terror and to placate many of its most outspoken critics.

The Black Radical Congress suggests that Cincinnati must be a symbol of why we must fight the police state nationally and locally! We must demand, as we are advancing in our national petition campaign, a federal statute criminalizing police terror. The assumption of Black guilt is so pervasive in this system that allowing, by our silence or acquiescence, these executions to be treated as accidents turns unfortunate situations into absurdity.

Cincinnati must be a symbol of why we must fight the police state nationally and locally! We must demand a federal statute criminalizing police terror.

This is a time for action. We must cry for Timothy Thomas. We must grieve with his family and friends. But more than anything else we must organize. In Cincinnati, the call that we should support nationally has emerged from the Black community: the removal of the City Manager, Police Commissioner and Public Safety Director. There must be accountability for this situation of racist lawlessness, particularly given the demonstrated history of atrocities.

At the national level, in addition to support for Cincinnati's Black community, we must push the demand for criminalizing police terror. This issue must be raised in every Black community newspaper, every pulpit, but also in city council meetings, on talk radio programs, and in the streets.

It is not enough for us to express support to those in Cincinnati carrying out a valiant fight against police terror. The time to nationalize this issue and to sustain a national campaign has arrived. Enough is enough!

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From the CopWatch Handbook
WATCHING THE POLICE

A. Police Stop someone:

1. **Write down officer name, badge number, and car license number if the car is near (do not leave the person being hassled).**
2. **Write down the time, place, and date of incident.**
3. **Determine if the person is being arrested and on what charge.**
4. **Get the names of witnesses to the arrest/harassment and how to contact them.**
5. **Try to get the name of the arrestee, but do not ask their name unless they have already given it to the police.**
6. **Whenever possible video tape or take pictures of the incident.**
7. **After the incident take the time to write out what happened completely.**

B. Police Violence

1. **Follow the same steps as above.**
2. **Attempt to gather witnesses to the incident by explaining to the bystanders what is happening.**
3. **Encourage the police to be calm and nonviolent.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Attempt to maintain a "reasonable distance" so that you do not get arrested for interfering in the arrest. Explain to the cop that you do not want to interfere but that you know that you have the right to observe their actions.

While there is at least one US Supreme Court decision upholding the right of citizens to observe and even "verbally intervene" when officers are on duty (or in the process of making an arrest), be aware that this does not mean a police officer necessarily is going to respect that right. You still are at risk of police harassment, an order by police to "move along", or may even face arrest.

Under vaguely worded provisions, which relates to obstruction of a police officer, failure to disperse, and hindering law enforcement, an officer may order you to step back while an arrest is being made, he/she may order you to cross the street, or even to get out of the area. It simply is not made clear, under these laws, just how far the police can go in stretching their authority. As unconstitutional as this may be, it means that an officer may threaten to or use these laws to go after you.

Be careful and use your own best judgement as to what you believe constitutes a safe distance from which to observe. As dictated by each individual situation, be careful, nonviolent, make a judgement based on an individual police officer's attitude toward your presence, and always move back or out the area if a partner wishes to retreat. We encourage you to remain as a twosome, and to avoid situations where both of you risk arrest. CopWatch does not encourage verbal intervention or physical intervention.

You can contact CopWatch at PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

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Up Front

One Long Month

Jerome Johnson

My, my, my. What a month for racism this has been.

The first thing was the odious Alacatel ad, featuring Dr. King's famous "Dream" speech in 1963. I'd heard of it, but ironically I didn't see it until the morning of the 4th, when I was watching the news coverage of his murder years ago (I refuse to call it an anniversary). There was the complimentary story about Dr. King, and then some other ads, then the Alcatel ad with King's voiceover. It left me with a sick, let-down feeling—and more than a little anger. I was disgusted with the way Dr. King is being exploited for raw profit by a big corporation, and angry with the King family for selling out.

My, my, my. What a month for racism this has been.

Given the speaking fees that members of the family can command, don't even think about the "bills have to be paid" excuse. Unlike pro athletes and entertainment stars, Dr. King and his legacy—and that of Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hamer et. al.—should never be reduced to commercialism.

I realize that the abuse of Dr. King in these ads, in itself, is not racist. At the same time, I cannot help but wonder about Alcatel's commitment to diversity, internal promotion/demotion, their hiring/firing record, their outreach to customers of color, and just how much they've invested in poor and minority communities. If Alcatel is like the rest of corporate America, using Dr. King to improve business makes Alcatel look like a hypocrite and the King family look like damned fools.

Next came riots in Cincinatti, following the senseless killing of young Timothy Thomas by white police. It carried chilling echoes of the Dorismund and Diallo cases in New York. Once again, a young, unarmed, peaceable black man had been shot during a police encounter—and he was the fourth such victim in Cincinatti since last November. As usual, there was a lame excuse from white officials blaming the victim: "He had misdemeanor and traffic warrants, and he ran." Black residents—enraged by years of complaints, official inaction and continued police brutality—erupted in riots. Kweisi Mfume and others went to settle the situation down. Yet again, I was reminded that as a black man, I'm an endangered species. I remembered Al Sharpton's words: "We're more afraid of the cops than we are of the robbers."

No, I don't condone the rioting and violence. But yet again, I'm compelled to ask questions. Despite repeated studies, why hasn't the climate in Cincinatti changed? Why is it that young black men are targets all over the country? And if this is really a "police issue" and not a "race issue" as Police Command says, then why aren't we seeing widespread killings of young white men by police of color?

Then there came the news that Klansman Thomas Blanton—now 62 years old—is finally going on trial for his role in the firebombing of the 16th St. Baptist Church in Birmingham, 1963. As everyone knows, four black girls were killed and many injured in what was one of the most famous terrorist cases in U.S. history. None of them—Denise McNair, Addie Collins, Carole Robertson and Cybthia Wesley—were older than 14. Their lives were snuffed out by hate before they'd hardly begun. The other two terrorists, Herman Cash and "Dynamite Bob" Chambliss, are dead. I was glad to hear that Blanton will probably be convicted at last. Hearing the news brought back pain and anger, and I grieved again. I grieved not only for the four children, but also for all the other blacks Blanton, Cash, and Chambliss had abused, tortured and killed—victims whose names we'll never know.

And last, near the end of the month, came the knowledge that the state of Mississippi continues to embrace its culture of racism by its overwhelming—66%—vote to keep the Confederate symbol on its state flag. I can't say it's news because I and most other blacks expected it. The white majority in the state loudly howled about "maintaining our heritage." Apparently they don't mind that their symbol of "heritage" means a heritage of Jim/Jane Crow disenfranchisement, segregation, violence, terror, rape and murder.

*****

In Vietnam, Nong Duc Manh takes office as Party General Secretary.

In Haiti, the Sogebank empowers poor people with small loans.

In Maryland, Gov. Glendening signs law protecting civil rights.

And in Olympia, in celebration of post-quake renewal as well as of creativity, a community lights up downtown with ArtsWalk 2001.

▪

What Can Men Do?

(an article directed at men)

by Frank Hoffman

Women and children are the majority of low income people in the United States. That has been the case for some time. Children are the largest group among the poor. The largest number of low income people are what we call white people.

There is only one reference I am aware of that cites an immaculate conception. All other conceptions involve a man. Then why are there all these single,low income, Moms, raising kids by themselves? Where are the guys? They were there for the party.

Well, some of the guys say, I didn't have children in mind. Did the woman? Was the woman thinking, I'll have some fun tonight, then take care of a child by myself for the next 18 years? Not likely.

Well, if she was a "good" woman, she wouldn't have had sex with me. Most of the fathers involved in teen pregnancies are in their 20's. The men are older than the women. So, you would think the men, being older, more experienced in how the world works, would think, Damn, No way am I in the place to be a father. I don't have the emotional maturity. No condom, no sex. Men seem to want to blame some Eve for their shit. Why not be righteous in- ad?

What can men do? Do we really need pictures of women almost in bathing suits to sell us cornflakes, motorcycles and sports magazines? What's with that? We need to be sold sex? It wouldn't occur to us otherwise? Entertain the idea we are taught to obsess on sex. And in the course of that instruction, taught the needs of our gender are the most real and the most important. Men rule!

What about equality? Like my man Trudell says, It's not a choice between freedom and responsibility. We don't really want people to be free to be Nazis. Responsibility is the thing -- to own what we do. If we cause a pregnancy, we have a responsibility. If we are not able to deal with those responsibilities, if we just don't have the ability to do that, then we do have the ability to resist all the social pressures to engage in unprotected sex, because that's the responsible thing to do. Right?

The urge, in both men and women, is to let go. To seek that release. Nature doesn't tell the man to dominate. It's men who had that idea. It makes things easier for us, if we're at the head of the line. That's something men can do about child poverty - make the effort, as uncomfortable and as suicidal as it seems at times, to question the self serving mythology that men do not have to be responsible. And that we are too lame, when it comes down to it, to own what we do.

Men can help fight for the right of women to have control of their bodies. That includes birth control and abortion. The current president promises to attack those rights.

As the rich get richer, and the numbers of the poor keep increasing in the United States, it has been the poor who are blamed for this inequality. The poor, I guess, are supposed to run faster to catch up. It's their fault they're poor. But where did the money come from, that makes the rich, rich? Do we really think they earned it? And is it o.k. that our children are punished by this inequality?

What can men do to help? We can let in the fact that single Moms do not want to be low income people. That these Moms and their children, are people. Listen to the media, and you will hear them being called names all the time. You will hear them being blamed for the hunger of their, our, children. There is a struggle going on, all over the world. The struggle of the poor for lives of dignity and equality and justice. It is often men who are the oppressors, here and in the rest of the world. We can help by developing an understanding of equality, by believing in that struggle, by being part of that struggle. And it starts right here, right now. It is not out there.

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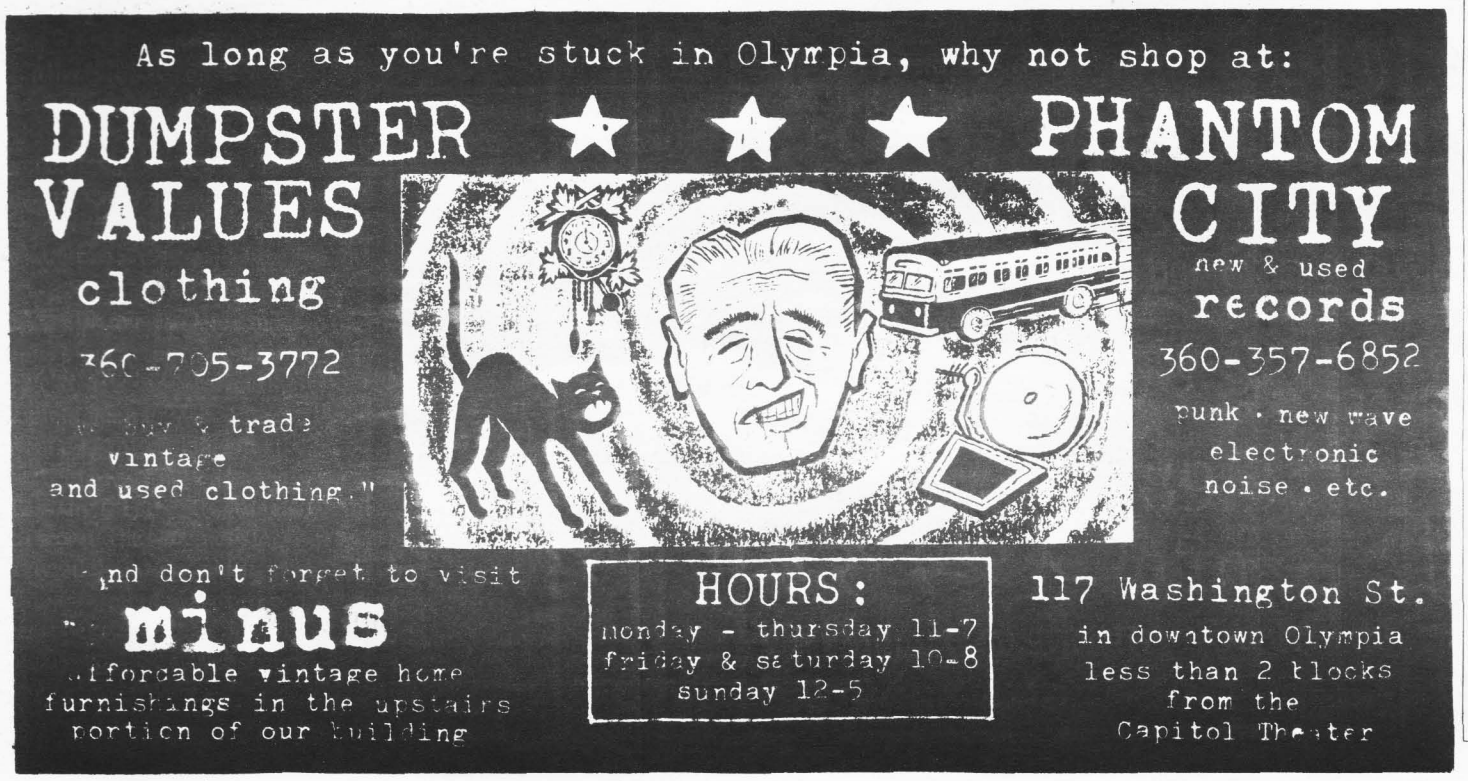

QUEBEC/Anti-FTAA— Labor March Numbers 40,000-60,000

WIP News Service

21 April 2001—We spoke with four members of the International Action Center contingent to the anti-FTAA demonstration in Quebec City, Quebec, on the evening of April 21, after they had spent the day first marching with tens of thousands of workers and then with smaller groups of thousands of mostly youthful demonstrators at the wall of wire and concrete set up around the FTAA meeting place and reinforced with 6,000 cops.

Today's action was distinguished by a mass labor march parallel with "break-off" marches of people who were determined to challenge the government's attempt to wall off the FTAA meeting. Indymedia and some of the wire services reported more police use of rubber bullets, water cannon and heavy tear-gas use, with more injuries to demonstrators. One lost a finger; another was shot in the neck with a 3.5-inch rubber bullet. As of 8:30 p.m. none of the injuries were reported to be life-threatening.

Q: What did you consider were the most important differences between the demonstration yesterday and today?

Greg (who photographed the march): The participation of the Canadian and Quebecois labor movement in today's action gave everyone the assurance that there was mass support -- and from the working class -- for the assault on the FTAA. I'd estimate there were 40,000-60,000 people here today between the march and the groups around the city. The Canadian workers know how damaging NAFTA has been to them. Quebec's workers feel threatened by the FTAA as they did by NAFTA. Workers throughout Canada have shown in the past few years they are capable of militant actions themselves. I saw groups of workers today with their own cotton gas masks and goggles. Public workers in Newfoundland recently won 15% raises with just the threat of a strike.

Sara (IAC organizer): The labor march and the "break-off" marches were separate actions, but when you went to the wall to fight you knew that the workers were cheering you on, even those who were not participating.

Q. Most of you were at demonstrations against these oppressive international bodies in Washington and then at the protest in Philadelphia of the Republican National Convention. How would you compare them with this one?

Gery (youth organizer): This one was more militant. We were out in the streets near the perimeter of the fence last night past midnight and then in action from early this morning, and all that time the demonstrators were standing up to the police. Also, since the police relied on gas -- there were reports of 30 canisters a minute coming at us -- and water cannon instead of on arrests, it meant we could stay in action longer without being arrested. There were many demonstrators here from the United States and I think that the good, fighting spirit and solidarity of these days will carry over for the next period just as it did after the experience in Seattle.

The mass of the population of the city were with us. It wasn't just the workers on the labor march, but also the people who lived in the neighborhoods.

Deirdre (veteran anti-war activist and socialist writer): There was another tremendous difference. The mass of the population of the city were with us. It wasn't just the workers on the labor march, but also the people who lived in the neighborhoods. Even the shopkeepers who boarded up their shops in fear of the clashes invited us in to use the bathroom or to give us water to wash out our eyes. One person insisted he help us, and told us how "my father fought the fascists in the Netherlands" as he berated the police. Another woman ran down after us to offer us muffins. There was zero hostility to the demonstrators, including those who were tearing town the fence and fighting the police the hardest.

Sara: There was also the advantage that both the movement in Quebec and in all of Canada, and the population in general, is better organized and more politically aware. Our anti-racist, socialist and anti-imperialist literature was accepted with enthusiasm by the crowd. And they also took care of us well. At the school where we stayed the high school students had fought to make it available for the demonstration; they kept it secure and the organized food for those who came to struggle. You had the feeling of being an army with a population behind you.

Q: The IAC brought its own political program to the demonstration. How did you participate to bring out these political points? What was your participation?

Gery: Our main thrust was to raise the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. We had hundreds of bright orange flags that read "Free Mumia" in Spanish, French and English. And we had a big banner that read "Build global resistance to the capitalist death machine." We marched with these banners in the labor march for an hour, then went over to where there were confrontations at the perimeter. People would see the banner and start chanting "Brick by brick, wall by wall, we're going to free Mumia Abu-Jamal." The flags and banners were useful in regrouping the demonstrators when, for example, they had been assaulted by gas or cannon or rubber bullets, which were used more today than yesterday.

Sara: The demonstrators were organized into three basic groups: those who would directly challenge the authorities, those who would assist those in direct confrontation-which was what the IAC did-and those who attempted to avoid the threat of arrest or attack from the police, although everyone was gassed. Some of the groups like the "Black Bloc" and others were well organized, with grappling hooks, gas masks, etc., to latch onto the wall, accompanying the action with drumming and bugling. Then despite the heavy gas, inspired by the music and the struggle, we would grab onto the rope to help pull down the fence. There was tremendous solidarity among the participants.

Q: What do you think the impact of this weekend will be on the developing anti-globalization movement and on the progressive movement in general?

Sara: I think this will take the movement far beyond where it was with Seattle. That almost the entire population identified with and supported the most militant actions will give a tremendous impetus to everyone who participated or who will get an honest report of the events.

Deirdre: I agree. I haven't experienced anything like this since the days of the movement against the war in Vietnam, in terms of mass support for militant action, and all on a progressive basis.

For additional news from Quebec and the border crossings see http://www.iacenter.org/ or http://www.indymedia.org ▪

Calling the Death Merchants to Task

Ron Jacobs

You fasten the trigger For the others to fire Then you set back and watch When the death count gets higher
--Bob Dylan -- Masters of War

Burlington, VT -- On Monday, April 16th (Tax Day), close to 100 people protested the United States' Plan Colombia, its connection to the FTAA, and the complicity of the weapons manufacturer General Dynamics in the war in Colombia. Protestors gathered at the

Federal Building in downtown Burlington and listened to a few speakers make the connection between our tax payments and Colombia's civil conflict. Those who gathered were a combination of local citizens and visitors to Burlington on their way to the anti-FTAA actions planned for later in the week in Quebec City, Quebec. After the speakers and a song or two, we began our march to the General Dynamics plant in the south end of town.

Perhaps General Dynamics' most (in)famous product is what is currently known among arms purchasers as the Vulcan armament system. This system is currently used on the United States Air Force's F-16 and F-18 fighter bombers and (as the company's web page puts it) "features a 20-mm Gatling gun which provides reliability up to ten times greater than single barrel guns. The system's M61A1 Gatling fires at 6,000 shots per minute and places a controlled dispersion of projectiles in the path of the target." If one has never seen footage of what 6,000 shots per minute can do to a person, think of what your dog would look like if you placed a dynamite stick in its mouth. I hope that's graphic enough to give the reader an idea. The prototype of this system was the Gatling gun, which was first used against Native Americans in the 19th century. The concept was modernized in 1946 and has been continually modified to enhance its killing power. It was used by U.S. troops in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Yugoslavia. Its cousin, currently catalogued as the RAH-66, which is designed for use on helicopter warships, also raked the killing fields in Vietnam and Iraq and was destined for use during the war against Yugoslavia this past spring, until NATO decided against the use of helicopters. Both are mounted on helicopters and ground vehicles given to Israel and other U.S. allies. In addition, at least one of these guns, if not both, is the gun mounted on the helicopters recently sent to the Colombian military to help them fight the anti-government forces in that country.

Led by a giant puppet representing Uncle Sam's war machine and an Uncle Sam on stilts, the group walked down the pedestrian mall known as Church Street, passing out leaflets, chanting, and talking with onlookers. The response was mostly positive. Even some of the multitude of police (specially mobilized due to Burlington's role as a south-of-the-Canadian anti-FTAA border convergence spot) smiled at the witticisms spouted by the puppeteers and other protesters.

After passing through Church Street, we continued through the town's warehouse district which runs parallel to the shore of Lake Champlain, until we reached the focus of our anger: the General Dynamics plant. Dozens of cops stood around the plant. Some were company security, while most were from the local police force and the county sheriff's department. The latter were a little overdressed for the occasion—looking almost like the robocops who rioted on the streets of Seattle during the WTO meetings. Once the entire group had reconvened at the plant's gates, Anne Peterman of the Native Forest Network (NFN), one of the protest organizers (along with the American Friends Service Committee, ACERCA, and the instant antiwar action group), informed us that the plant had been closed for the day due to our protest. "Just think, " she said. "How many gatling guns were not made today because we decided to show up here!" As the sun continued to shine on us, speakers and musicians, including Seattle's Jim Page, spoke and sang out against imperial war and its complementary trade agreements.

Plan Colombia, FTAA, and Oil

Despite Washington's insistence that Plan Colombia is not "Yankee imperialism", it is. How is it? One need only follow the money. If one does, s/he cannot help but acknowledge the obvious fact that those who benefit most from the creation of the FTAA are US-based corporations and financial institutions and that, furthermore, the FTAA and other such trade agreements are designed by and for the concentration of economic and social control in the hands of those companies. In the section of Plan Colombia that spells out the economic aspects of the plan, it states: "The plan also involves the implementation of measures that would serve to encourage foreign investment and further promote trade expansion. These include the completion of the necessary steps to comply with existing Uruguay Round agreements, especially those dealing with customs valuation, intellectual property protection, and investment measures, as well as implementing business facilitation measures proposed in the FTAA negotiations."

Most importantly, in Colombia's case, the U.S. has no desire to see a government in Colombia that would dare to keep most of its oil earnings and use them to take care of its people and spread the Bolivarian dream of a liberated and united Latin America. This dream is part and parcel of FARC's program. In keeping with its policy of not allowing the revolutionaries any say in ruling Colombia, Washington has made clear its displeasure with attempts by various European governments to arrange peace talks between the rebels and Colombia's current government that would give FARC and ELN a role in a future coalition government. Washington has also expressed criticism of the Venezuelan government's opposition to Plan Colombia and its support of the various revolutionary and progressive forces in Colombia. These actions by Washington expose one of the primary reasons for the increased U.S. military role in the region—they want the revolution destroyed so it can never have a role in governing Colombia. This is in spite of the fact that FARC governs about a third of the country already. As in Vietnam, the United States seems to think it can reverse the desire of a significant segment of a country's people for liberation through the sheer strength of its military arsenal. As in Vietnam, they are likely to fail. It is up to us to help end this madness before it further kills, maims, and destroys Colombia's people and their land, as a similar madness did in Vietnam. ▪

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A conversation with author Derrick Jensen

Doing Good Work

Carmen Hoover

Ed. note: *Environmental writer Derrick Jensen is the author of* A Language Older Than Words *which Publishers Weekly describes as a book that "accomplishes the rare feat of both breaking and mending the reader's heart."*

Q: *Last fall, I saw your name on an "Environmentalists Against Gore" list, and wondered, as I was reading* A Language Older Than Words*: Did you vote for Nader/LaDuke? How would you characterize their campaign and the potential of the Greens?*

Yes, I voted for Nader/LaDuke. I will not vote for members of the corporate party that runs this country. I don't actually have much hope for the Greens, because I don't believe we live in a democracy. We live, I've come lately to believe, in a corporate theocracy, where the god is production. Production is the unquestioned god of our culture. But insofar as effecting some reforms before industrial civilization collapses, I think the Greens' heart is in the right place. And by the way, I dismiss as absurd the attacks of the Democrats on the Greens and on Nader/LaDuke.

Q: *As Ward Churchill, in the* Listening to the Land, *says, "So much is going wrong." How do you think about prioritizing the many important issues we face, choosing tactics, building coalitions? It is hard for me to think about the "big picture" sometimes because it makes my little part of the solution seem so small. How do you reconcile the overwhelming nature of human problems?*

I've heard it said that the point of life is the Greek word *eudaimonia*. It is sometimes translated as happiness, but I think a better translation is "fittingness." The point of life is to follow your own particular daimon, wherever it leads. To follow your heart. One of the good things about so much going wrong is that this means there are so many opportunities to do good work. If it leads you to work on salmon issues, the same is true. Family farmers are in trouble. Capitalism needs to come down. People need to learn how to think critically. And so far as one person's contribution being small, that's because one person is small. We all need to throw our contribution into the stew, and then hope to hell it tastes good.

Q: *It seems that there are a fair number of people who support anti-corporate, pro-environment ideas but don't have time to be "activists." What one thing would you suggest people could do to promote a sustainable world and healthy cultures?*

See above. Follow their hearts. Quit jobs they hate. And I suppose the single most important any of us can do is be honest. Tell the truth to ourselves and to others about our own lives, and about the way we live.

Q: *In your books and interviews, you deal directly and respectfully with Native people and indigenous worldviews without an undercurrent of exploitation or appropriation. How do you do that?*

I am not an indigenous person, and never will be. I merely want to be the best human being I can. So I rely on my own experience as much as possible. And my own tradition is the one that has unbalanced everything, so me attempting to become an Indian wouldn't help anything at all. Also, these traditions have been declared specifically off-limits to me, so why should I try to take something that is not mine? It's no different than if I was staying at your house, and you asked me not to go into one room in your house. I would not go in there. If you left your diary on the table, I would not read it. It's simply a matter of respecting another's existence.

Q: *How do you stay informed? Could you recommend any good books to read, films to watch, art to view, or records to listen to?*

I read the newspaper as little as possible. Same with radio and television. The lies and obfuscation are numbing. I am on some list-serves that are specific to issues I care about. Those help. Books, films, art, records, would all depend on why the person wanted to read them. For information or for philosophy, or whatever.

Q: *How do you turn your anger into something helpful, like love, action, or strength?*

I feel it. I think anger is very helpful. So is sorrow. Rage is an appropriate response to an outrageous situation, and despair is appropriate to a desperate situation. We spend far more time fending off these feelings than we do actually feeling them. And if we simply felt them, we would learn that it's not the sorrow nor even the pain that hurts so much as it is our avoidance of them.

Q: *Do you plan to publish another book of interviews?*

Next year. This fall or next spring my publisher is reissuing my book *Listening to the Land*. Next spring he will be publishing my next book *Hate in the Western World*. And probably Fall 2002 he'll publish my next book of interviews.

Q: *Your worldview is in opposition to the dominant culture. You are a formally educated, Euro-American male. I would think you could pass into the straight world if you set your mind to it. Do you ever think it would be easier to just put your head in the sand, watch TV, get a nice professional job, drive an SUV, and leave this change-the-world stress behind?*

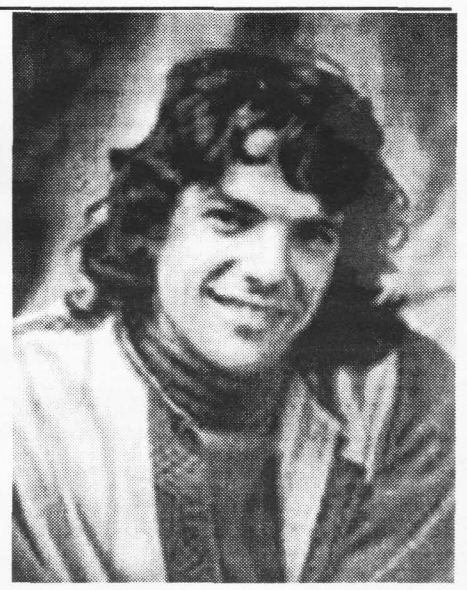
Why would I want to work a wage job? I love what I do. Every morning I am so grateful to be who I am, that the universe has blessed me with the life I am living. I am absolutely in love with life.

Just because the odds are hopelessly against us, that's no reason to quit. The dominant culture is killing the planet. I'm going to help stop that.

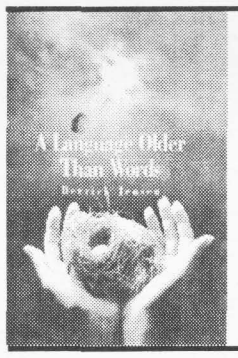
Q: *How do you resist burnout and ideological doubt in the face of al the crazy-making messages from the powers that be?*

Burnout isn't a question, in part because I love what I do, in part because things are so desperate, and in part because I so love life.

I used to have ideological doubt, and I questioned it for years. But I've moved on to other questions. As I learn more and more I become increasingly immune to the crazy making. That used to be a horrible, horrible problem for me. Neil Evernden's book *The Natural Alien* saved my sanity. It was the first book that let me know that the culture is crazy, not me. Since then, I have read more and more books that have reinforced that understanding, and have had countless conversations with loving friends who have helped to reinforce it as well. So if I could give advice on this, it would be to find supportive friends who can help you realize that you're not crazy, the culture is crazy. ▪



Derrick Jensen will be the keynote speaker at the Olympic College Shelton Writers' Conference May 19 and 20. For more information regarding the conference, please contact Carmen Hoover at 350-432-5409 or choover@oc.ctc.edu.



The South Sound Greens will host a booksigning for Derrick Jensen on Saturday, May 19, at Orca Books in downtown Olympia from 7-8 pm.

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Television Steals Your Leisure Time

By Rory Henneck

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound? Similarly if a concerned citizen acts for the good of all and no one is there to see it, does it catch on? What is the difference between one channel and five hundred channels when five megacorporations control ninety percent of the mass media in this nation? Take your pick of American rich urban white male perspectives, the jingle remains the same.

A direly necessary progressive battle has yet to be fought and it doesn't require a congressional lobby or demonstrations to make it happen. It is you against an unarmed appliance -- you against your television. If weaning yourself down to a couple of hours a week in the past hasn't worked, unplug and sever the power cord, or get a hammer, take it outside and perform euthanasia on a pet that has cost you more than any dog you've ever owned. If you prefer, put it in a box and hide it from your children. When they finally find it, tell them to count to fifty and go hide it again. At least hide and go seek isn't passive. If they aren't going to understand why the tv died, you had better just bury it in the backyard and tell them it went away. Maybe plant a tree on top of it. Show your neighborhood who isn't watching, pot some plants in the gaping hole where the screen used to be and put it on your porch.

Sell it, smash it, if you have self-control put it away until the neighborhood is broadcasting for itself.

Regardless of whether you sit down and watch disgustedly, amusedly, or aimlessly the television has performed its most needed utility -- it has taken your time. It kept you distracted from thinking about the flat bicycle tire that has kept you from riding, the clothes that you meant to take to the thrift store, the book a friend lent you to read that sits on the table with all of the junk mail you forgot to put out last night in the recycling because you succumbed to a sitcom rerun. In history books, one reads that leisure is what allowed great thinkers to postulate, great musicians to compose, and great athletes to train, but what kind of leisure is it when you are using your leisure time, won by the struggle of thinking people, to watch what amounts to hours of unintelligent commercials labeled as entertainment. No one would willingly pay to receive calls from telemarketers on demand, but millions pay to receive the same messages packaged in appealing personalities with apparently happy lives to be viewed vicariously as their own lives pass.

Maybe you are of the mind that there are good things on television; educational channels, news programs, and federally funded programming. How many nature documentaries suggest direct involvement in reversing the ecological trends that jeopardize the planet's biodiversity? How many history programs explore the sustainability of cultures that have been conquered instead of the strategies used to defeat them? Why does the news choose to focus on children shooting each other and not the countless others given antidepressants and guiltily ignored while parents rush to provide the material things that the television prescribes for America? The news tells us that there are causeless effects, and ineffectual causes. The news suggests that crime is up when it is actually down, that we should watch sports instead of playing ourselves, and that stadiums, corporate investment, and bigger roads will enrich our cities while they become unaffordable, homogenized, and crowded; that free speech and right to assemble are subservient to free trade and police brutality.

Are you waiting for the television to ask the right questions? Would any syndicate of successful criminals willingly implicate themselves to the millions from whom they have stolen so much? Broadcasting, a publicly financed industry from its infancy, no longer pretends to owe allegiance to the taxpayers whose money made the industry profitable. Instead it lobbies the Federal Communications Commission to give media corporations exclusive access to other taxpayer financed media, such as high definition television and the internet, and it has been successful. Instead of high definition television becoming a new broadcast spectrum of publicly-owned television stations, it has already been promised to the same welfare recipients who benefit from a near monopoly of regular television. How would programming change if those on social welfare received television channels as part of welfare reform?

As much as conserving your own water, or electricity, or labor, conserving your leisure starts in the home. Sell it, smash it, if you have self-control put it away until the neighborhood is broadcasting for itself. Challenge your friends and neighbors to a turn-off contest where the loser treats the winner to some active participation in real life. Spread the word, we all know the revolution will not be televised.

Two powerful minorities in this country will ultimately decide the future of the rest -- those who are controlling the mass media and those who are controlling themselves. ▪

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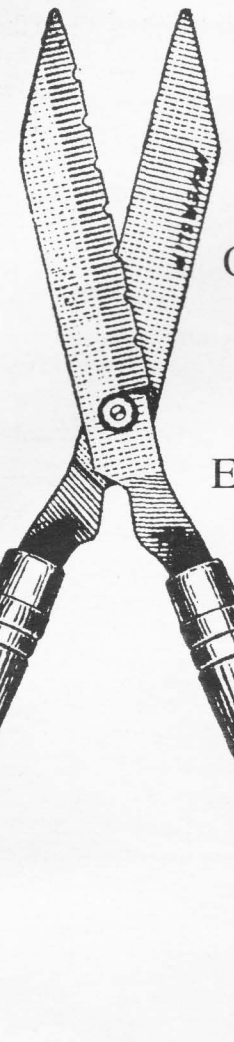

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Current State Of The Defense Movement And Mumia's Legal Situation

TCCDMAJ

As you probably know, Mumia Abu-Jamal's Habeas Corpus appeal has been presented to a federal court in Philadelphia, and we have been waiting for a court date to be set for nearly a year. This appeal to a federal court follows the total refusal of Pennsylvania state courts to rule fairly on Mumia's claims, or to even accept into the court record any of the new evidence that has been uncovered by Mumia's legal team. Due to limitations imposed under the so-called Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, the federal appeal that has been filed, if rejected, could mark Mumia's final day in court; a new death warrant could, and probably would, be promptly signed by Governor Ridge. Neither the federal Appeals Court nor the US Supreme Court would be required to hear a further appeal or intervene to stop the execution of an innocent political prisoner!

The current appeal is thus not even allowed to include evidence of Mumia's innocence that had not been presented by Anthony Jackson, Mumia's (unwillingly) court-appointed attorney in 1982. Instead it is only based on 29 constitutional issues in which it is alleged that Mumia's basic rights were violated in one or another way. Although Mumia is also asking for an "evidentiary hearing" at which additional evidence and witnesses could be presented, Judge Yohn is not required, nor expected, to agree to such a hearing. In addition to the original 29 violations cited in the Habeas Corpus petition, there were 4 additional amicus ("friend of the court") briefs submitted by lawyers connected with concerned parties which amplified on and expanded the scope of the appeal. However in an unusual move, Judge Yohn disallowed submission of those briefs into the court record, an action that was rubber-stamped by the appeals court above him. With the stage set for Mumia's final appeal to be heard — and likely rejected! — by Yohn, activists saw the need to focus on that crucial hearing, with maximum political pressure being applied as Yohn is forced to consider whether a continued white-wash of Mumia's claims would be too costly (politically) to the system he is sworn to uphold and protect. Plans were made for thousands of angry demonstrators to converge on Philadelphia on Day-X, the first day of Mumia's hearing in Yohn's court, while more distant cities in the US and around the world organized coordinated demonstrations to rock the system that framed Mumia. It was expected that Day-X could occur at any time after the filing of the appeal last spring, and our movement was on hair-trigger alert. But to everyone's surprise, and eventual dismay, the court date was never set by Yohn. After many months of waiting and waiting, it became clear that our wisdom in preparing for demonstrations on short notice, had instead become a burden.

Meanwhile, activists involved in Mumia's defense and related issues, faced increasing and disturbing levels of repression. Demonstrations in Philadelphia on August 1st at the Republican National Convention, gave the notorious Philly cops an opportunity to arrest over 400 activists, inflicting various levels of brutality, torture, false arrest, and unusually high bails (a million dollars, in two cases!), as described in previous newsletters. Clark Kissinger, who travelled to give a speech at that demonstration without "permission" from his federal probation officer, was actually sentenced to jail for 90 days (he was finally released on March 5th). Most of the "charges" against the other demonstrators were eventually dropped (due to "lack of evidence") or defeated in court. But the message had been delivered, as Bush rode to power celebrating his record of executing over 150 prisoners in Texas.

The chilling political climate and the interminable wait for Day-X took their toll on the Mumia defense movement, as our energy withered and our tensions turned inward. As described below, a recent crisis regarding Mumia's legal representation, has now called into question the future scenario Mumia faces. Although the court date for Mumia's appeal could be announced, that court must first now consider Mumia's petition asking for a change in his legal representation. Included in that petition, is a standard request for a delay in the proceedings during which Mumia could seek new legal representation. Even in the unusual case that Yohn denies Mumia's motion and orders him to appear in court with his current (undesired) legal team, the denied motion would undoubtedly be appealed to a higher court, again adding time before the actual hearing. Therefore it appears that the imminence of Day-X has evaporated, as the struggle enters a new stage, or detour, as it were.

Let us create a force in defense of Mumia so strong that Judge Yohn will wish he had just gotten it over with sooner!

Rather than being stuck in a situation of over-preparedness for an emergency, this realization should give supporters breathing room in which additional actions and build-up can be planned. Our goal should be to build our strength, while keeping our preparedness. Let us create a force in defense of Mumia so strong that Judge Yohn will wish he had just gotten it over with sooner!

Mumia's Legal Representation In Turmoil As Williams' Book Goes To Press

Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal throughout the world were shocked to learn that as a results of disputes among the defense, Mumia had taken the drastic step of dismissing his current team of lawyers. That team, led by the renown civil rights attorney Leonard Weinglass, has been working on Mumia's case for the last decade, including during the 1995 hearings before Judge Sabo at which time Mumia came within 10 days of being executed. The dispute appears to center around the imminent publication of a book concerning Mumia's case written by attorney Dan Williams, also a member of Weinglass's team. Mumia has submitted a motion to the federal district court to remove his current legal representation citing a conflict of interest; this request must still be acted on by Judge Yohn. The motion also asks for a delay in scheduling the Habeas Corpus appeal for a reasonable time during which Mumia may seek alternative counsel. On the face of it, the request to dismiss his lawyers is a reaction to Williams' plans to soon publish a book about Mumia's case entitled "Executing Justice: An Inside Account of the Mumia Abu-Jamal Case." In his handwritten motion submitted to the federal court, Mumia argues that Williams' publication of a book advertised as an "inside account" thus constitutes a clear conflict of interests, and calls into question the loyalty of his counsel and thus Mumia's right to effective counsel.

Williams' advocacy of a narrow legalistic strategy comes as a sore disappointment to those who have trusted the entire legal team to advance the political as well as strictly legal aspects of the struggle. Thus Mumia himself, along with virtually the entire political movement supporting him, sees Williams legalistic strategy as one which would compromise the strength of our message, while doing little or nothing to aid Mumia in court. In fact, it is widely held that the stay of execution issued by Judge Sabo only 10 days before Mumia's scheduled execution in 1995, was a direct result of the political pressure generated by the solidarity campaign. It was certainly out of character for Sabo, the "hanging judge," who had sentenced more people to death than any other sitting judge, never having previously granted a single stay of execution. It is likely that the surprisingly long delay in proceeding with Mumia's current appeal is likewise due to Yohn's nervousness over the political ramifications of this case (Yohn himself even mentioned the "worldwide interest" in Mumia's case when rejecting admission of the amicus briefs). Overwhelmingly Mumia supporters see the political issues connected to his defense as not only righteous in their own right, but as essential in insuring that Mumia does not become just one more case of an innocent person sent to be executed.

Weinglass admits himself that a strong legal case cannot insure victory, that Mumia's fate is equally in the hands of those fighting outside the courtroom, in the political sphere. Unlike Williams, he does not consider our activism to be extraneous, and has criticized Williams position, saying "I don't think that it's the place for a lawyer in a political case to be criticizing and evaluating the value of a support network." Weinglass has stated his willingness to help Mumia's case in any way he can. With Mumia's current petition to the court to dismiss his entire legal team, it is not clear whether Weinglass will have a future in the defense of Mumia. But just as we have done all we can to advance Mumia's struggle in the political sphere, we hope to see that Mumia also receives the very finest legal representation in court, as he truly deserves.

Twin Cities Coalition to Defend Mumia Abu-Jamal Web: http://www1.minn.net/~meis TCCDMAJ c/o Arise! Bookstore 2441 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, Mn. 55405

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Consumer Culture Kills

-- Fined --

Parent Company of **Bloomingdale's/Macy's Pays** $850,000 civil penalty for Selling **Flammable Children's Sleepwear** - Will Implement Innovative Children's Sleepwear Program

Tensor Inc. Fined $125,000 for Delay in Reporting **Exploding Halogen Lamp Bulbs**

Cosco/Safety 1st fined $1.75 Million for Failing to Report Product Defects

-- Recalled --

ASICS TIGER Corp. Recall of **Wrestling Ear Guards** - has received 10 reports of the plastic shells of these guards breaking, resulting in three injuries. The injuries reported include cuts and abrasions to the side of the head and ear. **Hotline: (888) 380-8222**

Dynacraft Recall of **Boys' Mountain Bicycles** Sold at **Wal-Mart** - has received 33 reports of the front-suspension forks on these bicycles breaking, resulting in 32 injuries that included a blood clot in the brain, broken bones, cuts, bruises and chipped teeth. **Hotline: (800) 551-0032**

Kawasaki Motors Corp. U.S.A., of Irvine, Calif., in cooperation with Star Garden Supply Inc., of Pico Rivera, Calif., and TMC Power Equipment Inc., of Monterey Park, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 3,000 **backpack blowers**. The engine exhaust can emit flames, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers. Kawasaki has received two reports of flames coming out of the engine exhaust.

*** The ASTRON KB-541**
*** The TMC KTBL-5600XA**
Kawasaki toll-free at (800) 433-5640

DFS Group Ltd., of San Francisco, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 65,000 **cigarette lighters** packaged in souvenir sets with ashtrays, pencils or pens. The lighters being recalled are refillable, electronic ignition lighters and bear location names such as "Hawaii," "Guam," "Saipan," "Las Vegas," "USA" etc. The lighters have flip-up caps over the push-down ignition buttons. The lighters do not have child-resistant mechanisms. Young children can easily ignite the lighters, presenting fire and burn hazards. **DFS toll-free at (800) 225-2777**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call: CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270 or <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

Letters, Announcements, Etc.

Friday, May 4th,
7pm at Traditions Cafe
(300 5th Ave in lovely downtown Oly)
Suggested donation: $5-25 sliding scale

This is an inspiring new video documenting the historic three weeks in Mexico from Feb 24 to March 11, 2000. The video follows the Zapatista caravan as it journeyed through 12 Mexican states visiting indigenous communities, eventually arriving in Mexico City to be greeted by over 100,000 people. The video tells the story of the 24 unarmed, ski-masked rebel leaders, joined by thousands of supporters in their mission to address members of the Mexican government to demand democracy, liberty, and justice for the indigenous peoples of Mexico.

Produced by Big Noise Tactical for the Independent Media Center with the Chiapas Media Project and PaperTiger Television. Come one, come all! Funds will go to support Media Island, a non-profit organization that is designed to provide both resources and networking assistance for political activists.

For more information visit our website at http://www.mediaisland.org, stop by our space at 816 South Adams Street in Olympia or call us at 352-8526.

"Old blind dogs" to roam capitol theater

May 10th Show Benefits Olympia Film Society

Scotland's neo-traditional supergroup, the Old Blind Dogs, bring their unique blend of traditional Celtic music and world rhythms to Olympia's Capitol Theater on Thursday, May 10th at 8pm. Two local acts, the Columbia Street Seisiun Band and Slieve Loughane Irish Dancers, will open the show. Tickets are $10 for adults and teens, $5 for ages 8-12, and are available at Traditions Fair Trade, Rainy Day Records, and at the door.

Since forming in 1980, the Old Blind Dogs have stood on the cutting edge of Scotland's roots revival. The band has developed its own trademark style in which dynamic percussion and bluesy harmonica fuel the delicately phrased melodies of traditional songs. As noted by the Los Angeles Times, "subtle traces of reggae, jazz and folks-blues surface on occasion, bringing freshness and color to acoustic music steeped in centuries of Scottish folklore and history."

The concert is a benefit for the Olympia Film Society and Capitol Theater, which recently reopened after six weeks of repairs to damage caused by the February 28th earthquake. Produced by OFS and Numina Productions, the Old Blind Dogs show is co-sponsored by Clancy's Columbia Street Public House and Fish Brewing Company. For more information, contact OFS at (360) 754-6670

Safeplace Holds Raffle for Trip to Hawaii

Safeplace is holding its annual Believe in Magic raffle campaign, with proceeds to benefit Safeplace's Client Assistance Fund. Each ticket purchaser will be entered into a June 15 drawing to win round-trip airfare and six nights accommodations on Maui, Hawaii for two adults. The Believe in Magic raffle is co-sponsored by Global Express Travel and Cruise. The raffle tickets are available at Safeplace's business office at 314 Legion Way, or by calling (360) 786-8754.

Each $2 ticket purchase will provide economic assistance to survivors of domestic violence. Because a lack of economic resources is one of the most common reasons a victim returns to an abuser, Safeplace's Client Assistance Fund is often an essential step on a battered woman's journey to safety and healing. This year, Safeplace's Client Assistance Fund has already provided over $10,000 to women and families to assist them in leaving their abusers. It is Safeplace's goal to provide every family leaving the shelter with a gift certificate for groceries and household goods, and a partial rent/security deposit. Safeplace also uses the Client Assistance Fund for cash assistance for services such as medical care, legal fees, childcare, motel vouchers for women who need a short-term place to stay or who cannot stay at the shelter, and bus or gas vouchers for women who need to leave town immediately to avoid their abusers.

Safeplace provides a wide variety of services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Safeplace is the only organization in Thurston County offering confidential shelter and 24-hour personal advocacy for individuals surviving domestic violence and sexual assault. Safeplace also provides community education and violence prevention programs to stop the pervasive violence that affects thousands of women in our community. The mission of Safeplace is to empower our community to be free of domestic and sexual violence and other forms of oppression. Safeplace advocates can be reached 24 hours a day at (360) 754-6300 or toll free at 1-800-364-1776.

Monthly Video Gathering

Come join us for videos and conversation the THIRD TUESDAY of every month, 7pm at TRADITIONS FAIR TRADE downtown Olympia. We watch a variety of progressive programs and well made documentaries made by people wanting to get their message out.

For more info call: Diane at 866-8444 or Marie 456-6984. Sponsored by Fellowship of Reconcilliation and Media Island.

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

PFLAG's Meeting

, th at 2pm
United Methodist Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

If you wanna dance;
360/866-4524
www.danceodance.com

You're Invited!
Tuesdays @ 4pm & Fridays @ 8pm on TCTV channel 22, Olympia

The Olympia Free School
A Community Education Network

The free school consists of about 40 people who have been to meetings or have contributed periodically. Our group is comprised of young and old, students and professionals, activist and mothers. Also affiliated with the free school are class facilitators, participants, and community organizations. Essentially, we are a school for everyone with no walls or conceptual borders.

The vision for free school came out of the first couple of community meetings in October that included 20-30 people. We wanted free school to be an inclusive and community based, decentralized, multi-age, non-hierarchical, free, resource networking tool. We have been putting out monthly pamphlets since November, which include a skill and knowledge share list and a calendar of workshops and classes. Our free classes are already in existence within our community or are lead by individual volunteers.

We are all residents of Olympia whether permanent or temporarily. The free school is a non-hierarchical group that welcomes any and all input, functioning on a loose consensus model. We act as a network point for the community. Free school also encourages individuals (or groups) to trade and seek knowledge and skills within the community. We encourage people to rely on community members rather than outside, expert sources. We are pursuing a wider diversity through accelerated outreach and by eliciting suggestions for relevant classes. Currently, our classes are inclusive of ESL, GED prep, ecological building, art, etc. Everything we offer is has no monetary charge so that it is economically accessible. We are moving closer to a format that is not outwardly radical so that people will connect with the very radical nature of our project and goals in a non-threatening way.

We will accomplish this project by building a three-month, professionally demeanored course catalog released in August. This will allow more time for outreach to draw in divisions of our community, who are unacquainted with us or question our relevance, to give us specific suggestions. The compiling of mailing addresses and phone numbers of people for a course catalog mailing list is a priority. We plan on holding open monthly meetings and core group organizing meetings.

Our group includes the youth, the parents of young and adolescent children, teachers, college students and elders in the community. We also work with groups such as Radio Ranch, Off Campus School, The Labor School, a couple of home-school groups, a parent group, The Greenland Institute, the Timberland Library, Procession of the Species, and TESC. Our top priority right now is outreach into more parts of the community.

We have a working relationship with several different groups that provide free educational opportunities. Free school brings together the events and lectures being organized by affiliated groups. We will request other groups to submit community requirement for certain classes and utilize our resources to provide for that. We contribute back to this alliance with our sentiment on what education means to this world around us. If there is any questions about free school or you would like to get infovolved please call Arian at 705-8882.

Oly Freeskooler May Addition

Free school is what you make of it. It's a networking tool or community organizations and individuals, open to people of all ages and backgrounds who want to learn in a free and open environment. If you are looking to explore a topic with others, share skills or teach others, free school is for you. Any questions, submissions, directions or anything else please call Arian 705-8882 or email freeschool@disinfo.net

Our Features for this month are the May Day Street Carnival, Organic Gardening Class and Bike Repair and Maintenance. Please see following class descriptions.

Organic Gardening Classes will be meeting on Sunday through May (6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th). On May 13th class will meet at 4pm instead of the usually 6pm. Through this four series class we will be discussing topic such as starts, transplanting, bed preparation, basic bed planning, soil fertilization, Native Plant Edibles and edible landscaping. Please call 705-8882 to register for class due to space restrictions (It's all right to come if you don't call but don't hold us accountable.) Facilitating this class will be Arian and Natalie

Bike Repair and Maintenance will be meeting on Tuesdays through May (8th,15th, 22nd and 29th). It will meet at the Evergreen State College Bike Shop. Covered in this class will be the basics of bike repair such as re-greasing chains, fixing flats, adjusting cables, and other repair guidance will be covered on a as needed bases.

Food Not Bombs meets every Sunday at Bread and Roses (1320 8th SE) at 10:30am. Although not an actual class FNB is a great place to pick-up some knowledge about Veganism and cooking.

MAY 1ST- MAY DAY STREET CARNIVAL
Time: 2pm Location: @Value Village parking * Comments: lot, fun and free school classes that will be held are diy screen printing, cob building, tree planting and the history of May Day. Also, you can join the (organic) gardening crew and pick-up a lot about sustainability and community

MAY 6th Basic First Aid 12pm Location: Lyons Park Facilitator: Leon
Organic Gardening 6pm

May 7th Free school Outreach Meeting 5:30 p.m. MII 816 Adams Facilitator: Carol

May 8th- Basic Bike Repair and Maintenance 2-4pm

May 9th- Basic Vegan Cooking 7pm: 121 Foote St. NE Facilitator: Vanessa

May 12th- Free school Group Meeting 2pm Location: MII 816 Adams Comments: Vegan Potluck Facilitator: Arian 705-8882

May 13th- Free school Calendar Committee: 12:30pm Location: Sylvester Park Facilitator: Arian 705-8882
Food Not Bombs Time: 10:30 am

Rocket Stove Workshop/ Appropriate Technology Discussion
Time: 12:00pm Location: Sylvester Park Facilitator: Warren

Organic Gardening 4pm (class time change)

May 15th- Bike Repair and Maintenance Time: 2-4pm

May 16th- Free school for Children Organization Group
Time: 7pm Location: Media International 816 Adams, Upstairs

May 20th- Organic Gardening Time: 6pm (class time change)

May 21st- Cold Frames Making 5pm Location: 121 Foote Facilitator: Natalie

May 22nd- Bike Repair and Maintenance Time: 2-4pm

May 27th- Organic Gardening Time: 6pm

May 28th- Compost Workshop 6pm Location: 816 Adams

May 29th- Bike Repair and Maintenance Time: 2-4pm

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

MAY 2001

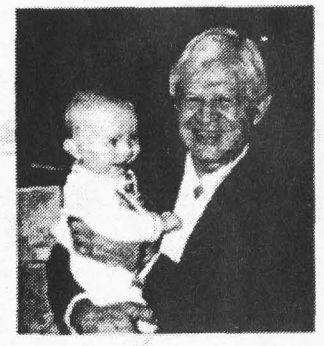
FREE

- 1 - Tuition Hike Protest & MayDay
- 4 - Cincinatti Police Terror
- 6 - Shutdown the FTAA
- 8 - Interview With Author Derrick Jensen
- 9 - Television Steals Leisure Time
- 10 - Mumia Case Update

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507

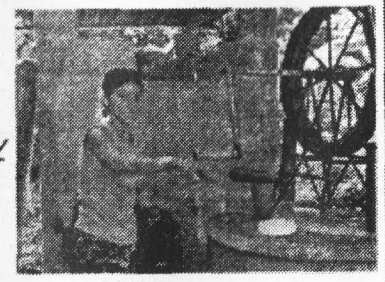
El Salvador Earthquake Benefit Fiesta

Connected by Quakes and Friendship
Thurston County ~ Usulutan , El Salvador



Live Music by
"Los Calaveras"
Friday, May 18
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
United Churches 11th Ave. &
Washington Street, Olympia

Featuring
Jose "Chencho" Alas
Founder of *Foundation For Self-Sufficiency*
Recently returned from earthquake ravaged El Salvador



The Foundation is a US non-profit. It supports democracy, sustainable development, environmental restoration, and conflict resolution in 86 rural communities of El Salvador. Their most critical need is helping families rebuild their homes damaged or destroyed by 5 earthquakes since January 13, 2001.

For more information or questions: Vicki Leonard 357-5030 or ZeiglerBob@msn.com

Suggested donation: $10 but no one turned away.
Light refreshments served.